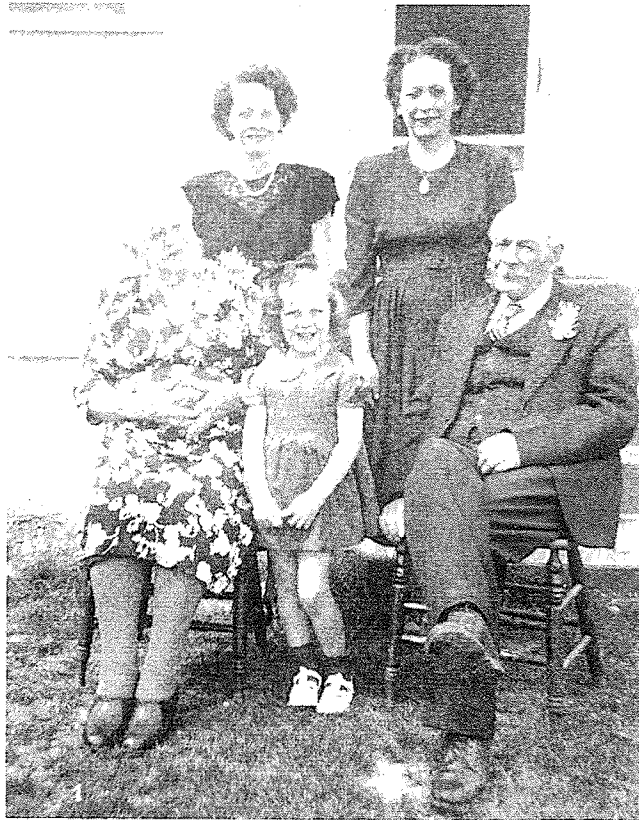


card player as is told by all who knew him. He especially loved playing cards with his grandchildren who soon learned from him.

In Balmoral Bertha was a member of the Women's Institute (W.I.) and the Ladies Aid of the United Church. She was a very gentle person and a wonderful grandmother.

When Aldus married in 1943, Sid and Bertha retired from the farm and moved into Balmoral, living in the family home built by Bertha's father. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated on



Mr. and Mrs. Sid Preston on their 50th Anniversary with daughters (L to R) Vera and Hazel standing behind and granddaughter Adair Preston (now McIvor) in front. Taken in Balmoral, 1951.

June 12, 1951. A few years later Sid passed away on March 27, 1955 followed by his wife Bertha on February 16, 1962. They are both buried at North Victoria Cemetery just southeast of Balmoral.

Following is an account of the activities and whereabouts of their children. See a separate article on Aldus and his wife Millie (nee Willis) who farmed near Balmoral and later owned and operated Central Sales & Service in Balmoral.

Elmer, the oldest in the family, farmed with his father for several years. In the wintertime he would drive the hearse for Sid and George Holloway, the local undertakers, His team of black horses were

used as the roads were too thick with snow for a motor vehicle to travel. For the same reason he also used his team to drive the United Church minister to Argyle for Sunday services. During the Thirties Elmer went to British Columbia where he secured employment with a pulp and paper mill at Youbou on Vancouver Island. He continued working there until his sudden death in June of 1958. Elmer is buried at Victoria Cemetery near Balmoral.

Vera, raised and educated at Balmoral, moved to Ontario as an adult and married Emery Smith of Cavan, Ontario, on June 27, 1934. They had two sons, Barry and Murray. On February 27, 1980, Emery passed away, Vera is presently residing at Lakefield near Peterborough, Ontario.

Hazel remained in the Balmoral and Stonewall areas and for some time ran the Snack Shop in Balmoral. Around 1958 she moved to Stonewall where she worked for many years in the Stonewall Pharmacy owned by Don Appleyard. Hazel devoted a great deal of her time and energy to caring for her parents in their later years, as well as other older folks. She was also very involved in her church and hospital work. On April 27, 1980 Hazel passed away and she is buried at Victoria Cemetery near Balmoral.

Aldus and Millie Preston

submitted by Niece Jean Rootsart (nee Slater)

On February 21, 1916, Aldus John Preston was born on the family farm (N.E. ¼ 31-14-2E) at Balmoral, the youngest child of Sidney and Bertha Preston (nee McClure). Other children in the family were Elmer, Vera and Hazel. Aldus, like the other children, was raised and educated at Balmoral.

He was a keen hockey and baseball player, being the pitcher for his home team. At school Aldus earned the nickname 'Softie' because he was so easy going and never eager to take part in a fight. Hunting was also a great hobby. Playing cards was a favourite pastime for Aldus and he was known in the district for his skill with them. Millie picked up her ability with cards from him. After Aldus finished school he farmed with his father, spent a winter in the mines at Geraldton, Ontario (to compensate for his fuel costs in running the farm), and also a winter at Swift's in Winnipeg.

His school day's sweetheart, Emily Mildred Willis, was born May 23, 1916, on her parents' farm (S½ 26-14-1E), southwest of Balmoral. She was eighth in a family of two boys and then seven girls born to Jack (John) and Margery Willis (nee Good). Millie was also raised and educated at Balmoral. Upon completion of high school she attended Dominion Business College in Winnipeg and was em-